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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAND JURY INDICTS TWO INMATES FROM THE U.S. PENITENTIARY AT LEAVENWORTH WITH MURDER

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced today that **Felipe Lerma-Amezcu**a, 37, and **David Vargas**, 26, both inmates at the U.S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, were indicted on Thursday, August 21, 2003, by a federal grand jury in Kansas City, Kansas, and charged with one count of using a homemade icepick to murder an inmate at the U.S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth on April 23, 2002.

If convicted, Lerma-Amezcu and Vargas each face a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. No initial appearance date has yet been set. The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the FBI and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kim Berger.

“The laws of our country apply even inside prisons,” Melgren said. “Prisoners who commit violent and heinous crimes against other prisoners will be prosecuted.”

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Indictments filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.